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The French Cabinet is reportedly split over the question of a Laotian appeal and has postponed a decision until 8 May. Heretofore, France has maintained that the Indochina struggle is a French Union problem, but the working level at the Foreign Ministry now believes the advantages of an appeal would outweigh the disadvantages, although Foreign Minister Bidault remains opposed.

Public and parliamentary sentiment for relief from the Indochina burden has been increasing. Should France come under attack in the UN on the Laotian issue, the public would probably support the government as in 1952 on North Africa. In the present case, however, this feeling would probably be less intense and less sustained because of the relatively closer French association with North Africa, and the growing discouragement at home over France's over-all budgetary deficit and the deteriorating military situation in Indochina.

Considerations of national prestige preclude any early French withdrawal from Indochina. The impressive success of Pinay's Independents in the recent municipal elections, however, is indicative of the public's desire for a "common sense" approach in government, an attitude which could overcome the reluctance of French officials to have questions involving Indochina introduced into the UN.

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